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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/531,959

03/21/2000

Atsushi Mizutome

35.C14358

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05/15/2007

FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO

30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA

NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

HOYE, MICHAEL W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2623

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/15/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/531,959

Applicant(s)

MIZUTOME ET AL.

Examiner

Michael W. Hoyer

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 67-72 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 67-72 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 March 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicants' submission filed on March 16, 2007 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicants' arguments filed on March 16, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding new independent claims 67 and 72, the Applicants' argue on page 6 of the Remarks section that, "Klosterman is not seen to disclose or suggest that a user specifies plural sets of input sources for integrated program information data." In addition, the Applicants argue that, "Yoshinobu and Schein have been reviewed and are not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Klosterman."

In response, the Examiner respectfully disagrees with the Applicants because given the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claims, Klosterman clearly discloses the claimed, "wherein the plurality of integrated program information data comprises program information data from the plurality of program information data, according to plural sets of input sources specified by a user from among the plurality of input sources", as met by col. 6, lines 34-56,

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where Klosterman discloses that the lineup of channels 52 can be arranged such that channels are in any arrangement, and more specifically, the user has the ability to delete and activate that channels displayed in grid guide 50, where for example, the user can determine whether to have one of the ABC channels, both of the ABC channels, or neither of the ABC channels. Therefore, any desired arrangement for the lineup of channels is available based on the user selection of plural sets of input sources or more specifically multiple sources of channels.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 67-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Klosterman (USPN 5,550,576), previously cited by the Examiner.

As to claims 67 and 72, Klosterman discloses a reception apparatus and a method for processing EPG information (see col. 2, lines 23-31 and line 62 – col. 3, line 5). The claimed reception unit for receiving a television signal is met by coordinator 20 (column 5, lines 13-26). The claimed input unit for entering a plurality of program information data from a plurality of input sources is met by coordinator 20, which finds and sorts the program guide information available in system 10, and coordinator 20 is connected to the source(s) of the program guide information (e.g. cable and DBS (or any other medium capable of transmitting a signal), see col. 2, line 62 – col. 3, line 9 and col. 4, line 63 – col. 5, line 37, also see col. 7, lines 19-38), and the

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claimed relating to the television signal is met by col. 2, lines 62-65 as described above. The claimed integration unit for producing a plurality of integrated program information data is also met by the coordinator 20 as described in the sections cited above. The claimed wherein the plurality of integrated program information data comprises program information data from the plurality of program information data, according to plural sets of input sources specified by a user from among the plurality of input sources is met by col. 6, lines 34-56 col. 7, lines 19-38, where Klosterman discloses that the lineup of channels 52 can be arranged such that channels are in any arrangement, and more specifically, the user has the ability to delete and activate that channels displayed in grid guide 50, where for example, the user can determine whether to have one of the ABC channels, both of the ABC channels, or neither of the ABC channels originating from different input sources. Therefore, any desired arrangement for the lineup of channels is available based on the user selection of plural sets of input sources or more specifically multiple sources of channels. The claimed EPG generating unit for producing plural sets of integrated EPG display data based on the plurality of integrated program information data is met by col. 6, lines 34-56 and col. 7, lines 19-38, where various sets of integrated EPG display data may be produced and/or arranged by the user through the use of remote control 32 and coordinator 20.

As to claim 68, the claimed wherein the plurality of integrated program information data comprises main program information data is met by a program or show, and the claimed detailed information data is met by the additional information associated with a particular show (see col. 7, lines 19-38). The claimed “and each of the plurality of input sources according to the main program information data and the detailed information data can be specified by the user” is met by the input sources specified by the user as discussed above for claims 68 and 72.

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As to claim 69, the claimed wherein a normal EPG display according to a single input source and an integrated EPG display based on the integrated EPG display data are selectable by the user's operation is met by the grid guide arrangement selected by the user as discussed above for claims 68 and 72 (see col. 6, lines 34-56 for example, as well as the other citations described above).

As to claim 70, the claimed wherein the main program information data is all-station EPG data with common information to all the stations is met by guide information can be provided from any commercially available medium and can apply to all or several of the available sources (see col. 5, lines 2-4), and the claimed detailed information data is station-specific EPG data transmitted in a channel belonging to each station is met by coordinator 20 may receive television program guide information via the vertical blanking interval in an available television channel (see col. 5, lines 5-7 and lines 57-59).

As to claim 71, the claimed wherein the plurality of integrated program information data is generated within a designated range by the user for at least one of data, time and channel is met by col. 6, lines 55-56, where any desired arrangement for the lineup of channels 52 is available.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael W. Hoyer whose telephone number is **571-272-7346**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30 AM to 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller, can be reached at **571-272-7353**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Please address mail to be delivered by the United States Postal Service (USPS) as follows:

Mail Stop _____
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Or faxed to: 571-273-8300

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to the Customer Service Window at the address listed above.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to customer service whose telephone number is **571-272-2600**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

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applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at **866-217-9197** (toll-free).

May 12, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Hoyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being the most prominent.

Michael W. Hoyer
Patent Examiner
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